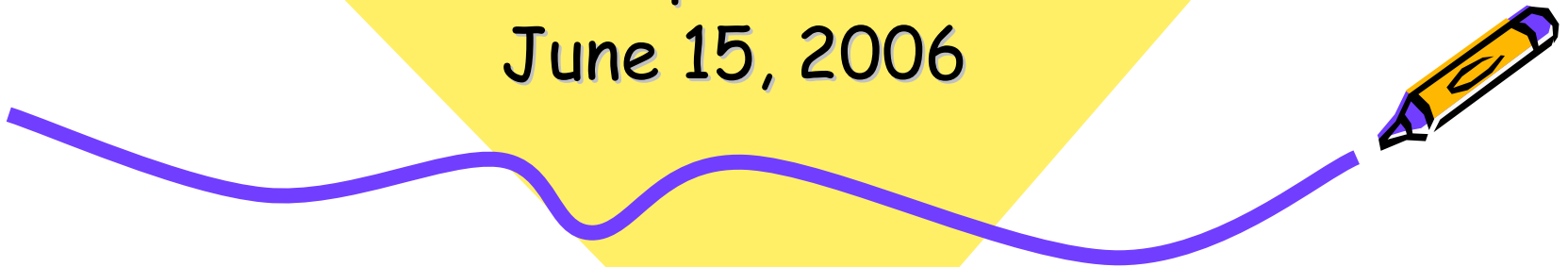


Bureau of Child Care

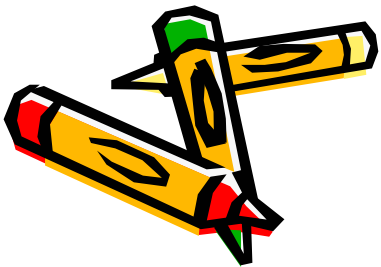
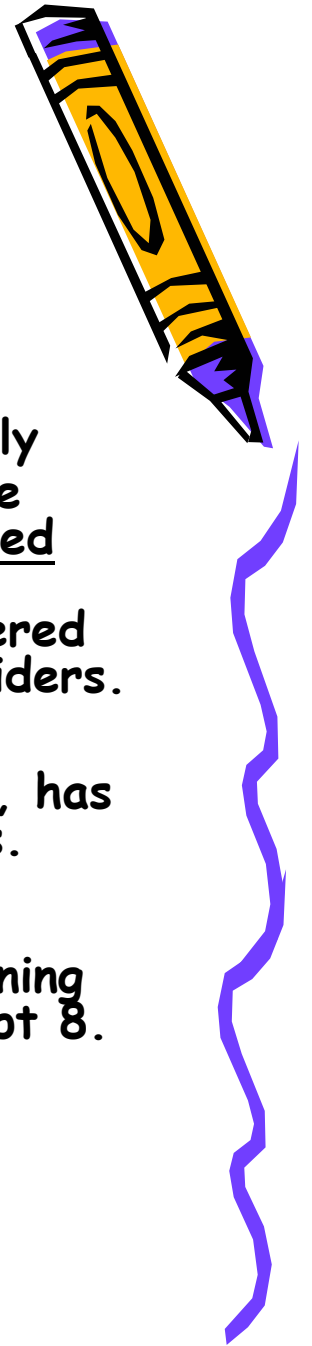
Update
June 15, 2006



Save the Date

The Bureau of Child Care recently partnered with other early childhood programs to fund a 4 day training institute to be held in September. Saturday, Sept 16 has been dedicated solely to child care providers. The training institute will continue September 18 thru the 20th. Many sessions offered during the week will also be of interest to child care providers.

Dr. Harvey Karp, a national expert on soothing crying babies, has agreed to offer a full day session for child care providers. Visit his website at www.thehappiestbaby.com for more information. Other national and local experts are being recruited. More information will be made available as planning continues. Online registration will be available July 28-Sept 8.

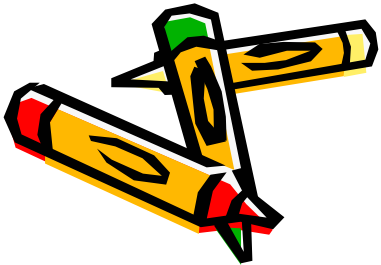


CCDF Wait List Enrollment

On May 3, Governor Daniels announced the transfer of \$18 million from TANF to CCDF. By June 8, just over 3,000 new children were successfully enrolled in the CCDF voucher program.

Close to 65% of those new children were enrolled in a licensed care setting. Of the 5,672 children who were on the wait list at the time of the announcement, only 440 are still waiting.

The project was successful thanks to dedicated CCDF Intake Agent staff, Local CCRR staff, BCC Operations and Policy staff and the AIS Support team.

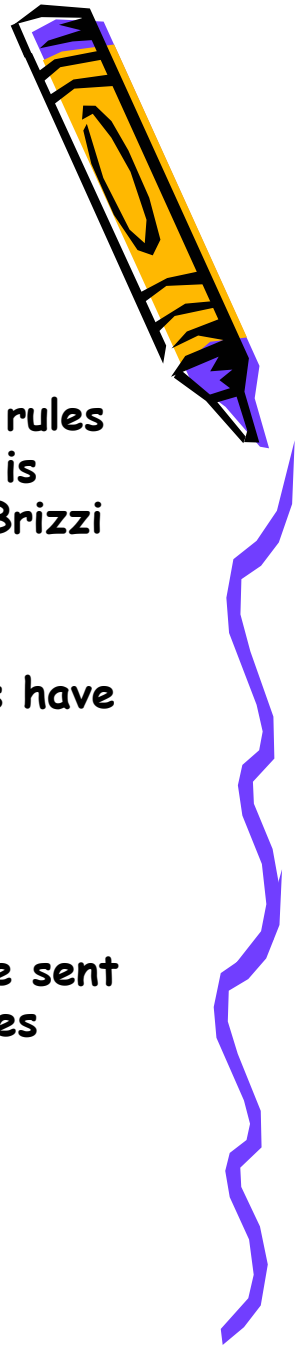


Licensed Home Rules Committee

The Committee formed to make recommendations for Licensed Home rules has met twice. The National Association of Regulatory Agencies is providing technical assistance to facilitate this process. Melanie Brizzi is also a vital part of leadership during this process.

Lively conversation and debate have occurred and many perspectives have been given with respect to what is a reasonable balance of state regulation and child health, safety and school readiness goals.

Three more meetings are scheduled to be held to complete the recommendation process. Once finalized, recommendations will be sent through the legal (and lengthy!) promulgation process which includes public hearings. The next meetings are 6/16, 6/30 and 7/21.

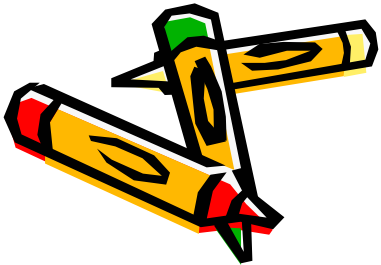
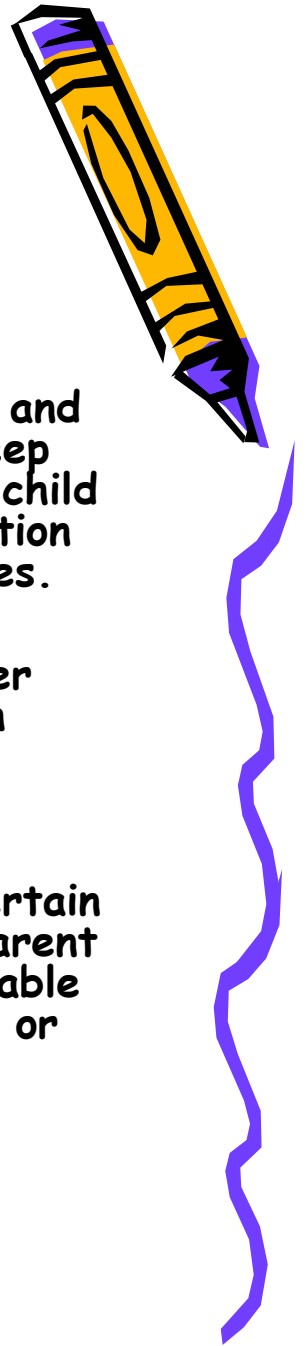


Safe Sleep

Enactment of PL 162-2005 requires that all licensed home providers and all homes receiving CCDF vouchers take a state approved safe sleep practices training. Sleep related infant deaths have occurred in child care home settings. The training is an effort to promote information about SIDS and safe sleeping practices that can save infant's lives.

A network of local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) and other approved private trainers has been established to assist BCC with meeting this legislative objective.

Since June 3, 104 trainings have been offered and a total of 1775 persons have been trained. While the legislation only requires certain providers to complete training, BCC encourages any provider or parent to attend a training. To find a complete listing of trainings available in your county, please go to www.earlychildhoodmeetingplace.com or www.iaccrr.org to link with your local CCRR agency.

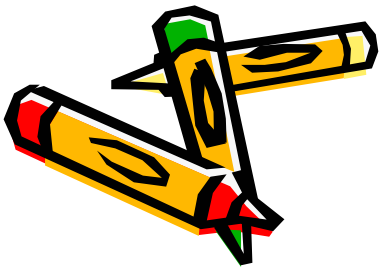


Centers Advisory Board

BCC wants to promote partnerships and enhance communication with child care providers. BCC invited a group of licensed child care center representatives to a meeting on June 6, 2006. The meeting was held to offer licensed child care centers the opportunity to form a group that will act in an advisory capacity to BCC.

BCC is working with the group to ensure that board membership represents the diversity of the licensed child care center field. Attention is being given to assure the following are represented: geographical areas of the state; large and small centers; profit and not for profit; accredited and non accredited.

The Advisory Board will meet again in Bloomington on September 12. The primary goal for that meeting is to finalize membership and formally establish the leadership structure of the Board.

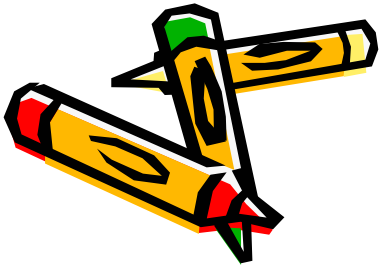
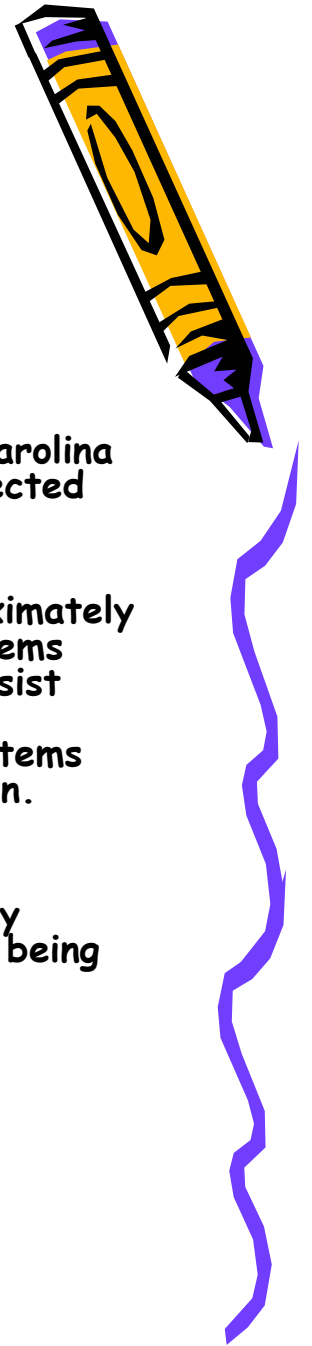


Quality Rating Systems

A team of BCC staff traveled to North Carolina in May to meet with North Carolina state staff and quality partners to learn more about their nationally respected Child Care Quality Rating System.

Quality Rating Systems have been implemented in 10 other states, and approximately 15 states are in the exploration and planning stages. Quality Rating Systems are successful in increasing the quality of care in a state because they assist parents in making more informed child care choices and because they use evidence based practices which lead children toward school readiness. Systems generally include provider incentives and supports to encourage participation.

Indiana has a model voluntary quality rating system, Paths to Quality, that is operating in two areas of the state. Implementation of a statewide Quality Rating System with voluntary provider participation based on this model is being considered for Indiana.



One Last Note from Michelle

I am continuing to explore ways to best facilitate communication from BCC to child care providers and other early childhood stakeholders.

Specific challenges include: sheer numbers of people seeking communication, diversity of those seeking communication, diversity of the way in which people prefer communication, diversity of what people want to know, and, of course, cost.

However, just because it is hard, I will not let it prevent us from doing what is right. I will continue to explore better methods over the coming months, and welcome ideas and suggestions.

